

Hosea - Living the Message, Pt 1

An Unlikely Couple...

Hosea 1:1-2:1

July 6, 2025

I. The STORY of HOSEA

- A. LISTENING to GOD. (1:1-2:1)**
- B. CHOOSING a WIFE. (1:3)**
- C. NAMING the CHILDREN. (1:4-9)**

Hosea was a prophet in the northern Kingdom of Israel who spoke for the Lord in the 8th century BC. But he did more than speak. God's call to Hosea was to live out the message. Marry an unfaithful woman. Have children with her...even if you wonder if they're yours. Not an easy call. Being a prophet was not an enviable job...

1. Have you read Hosea before? What are your thoughts coming into a series on this book?
2. The ideas in this book are shocking. Eugene Peterson (accurately) translates v.2 this way - "The first time God spoke to Hosea he said: 'Find a whore and marry her. Make this whore the mother of your children. And here's why: This whole country has become a whorehouse, unfaithful to me, God.'" What is your reaction to that verse?
3. God calls Hosea to marry an adulterous woman. This law says some pretty strong things about this in Lev. 21:13-15 and Deut. 22:13-21. How do you reconcile these passages with God's command to Hosea?

II. The STORY of ISRAEL

- A. GUILTY of spiritual ADULTERY. (1:2-3)**
- B. JUDGMENT for JEZREEL. (1:4-5)**
- C. REJECTION that leads to RESTORATION. (1:6-2:1)**

Hosea's life was to be a living example to the people of Israel. God loves them in spite of their spiritual "adultery". He will do anything to keep them for Himself. Hosea lives out both God's love and God's pain for all of Israel to see.

4. Adultery is seen as a painful sin...but only those who have suffered from it understand the depth of pain it causes. Do we think of our own desire to continue in sin to be as painful as spiritual adultery? Why or why not?
5. The tone changes in 1:10-2:1. Do you find it hard to reconcile the ideas of judgment and love, punishment and reconciliation?
6. What part of 1:1-2:1 stands out to you most? Why do you think that is?

III. The STORY about US. (Hos. 14:9)

- A. EXPERIENCING the TRUTH of God. (1:2-3)
- B. The NATURE of RELATIONSHIP with God. (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:22-32)
- C. The DANGER of other "LOVERS". (James 1:14-15)
- D. The GOAL is always RECONCILIATION. (1:10-2:1)

Sometimes it is easy to look at a text from 2700 years ago and just leave it there...the past. But the truth is that the world Hosea spoke to then has much in common with our world now. The human heart hasn't changed much in 2700 years. Let's look at our story in light of the text...there is a lot to think about. "Who is wise? He will realize these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them." (Hos 14:9)

- 7. Hosea was called to pain as a way to proclaim God's truth. Has that ever happened to you? Is that something we should expect as believers or was Hosea a special circumstance?
- 8. What does "being the bride of Christ" look like practically in our lives on a day to day basis?
- 9. What parallels do you see between Hosea's time and ours? What are the "lovers" that tempt us today?
- 10. Does God's love for us (His bride) impact and shape our love for those around us? How should it?